CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

THE PACIFIC

st Year NOVEMBER, 1921 No. 11

THE LAUGHING PRAYER.

The sorry prayers go up to God
Day after weary day,
They whimper through the eternal blue
And down the Milky Way.
Deaf to the music of the stars,
The children of desire,
Beggars before the Throne of God,
They wait for God to tire.

The proletariat of Heaven
Swarmed in the golden street
One day when Michael's host came by
Up to the Judgment Seat.
Above the heavenly mansions
Bright, streaming banners flowed,
While cherubim and seraphim
Were crowding in the road.

And then a little, laughing prayer
Came running from the sky,
Along the golden gutters where
The sorry prayers went by.
It had no fear of anything,
But in that holy place
It found the very Throne of God
And smiled up in His face.

Then Michael waited in the road,
For Michael understood,
While God looked on the laughing prayer
And found it sweet and good.
So God was comforted. He said:
"There still is hope for men.
One man prays happily!" And so
He turned to care again.

THE ASILOMAR MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Northern California nference at Asilomar proved an exceedingly inter- ting and profitable gathering. All told, including legates, ministers and visitors, there must have en upwards of 225 people there, which is a re- arkable showing. It has been again demonstrated at such a meeting, apart from the distracting in- uences of a big city, extending over a period of ven days with a Sunday in the midst, with more less leisure on the afternoons for fellowship and rolls along the beach, with opportunities for conferences in little groups under the trees, will be rich in spiritual values and must prove attractive to an increasing number of our church people.

This meeting of the Conference has been as fine as any "in the memory of the oldest inhabitant." The addresses were on a high plane; the devotional services were deeply rewarding. So unanimous was the conviction that Asilomar was the place and October the time, the Conference without a dissenting voice chose to repeat the experience in 1923.

No extended report of the meetings appears in these columns at this time, because it was voted to print the minutes and reports in the Pacific, and afterwards to put them forth in pamphlet form. For a few issues therefore portions of such minutes will appear on our pages.

THE SCRIPTURAL PLAY.

That we have a play-wright in our midst is a matter for congratulation. Mr. Tupper of the Boulevard Church has written several plays, and one of them entitled "Onesimus" was enacted at Asilomar before a large delighted audience. The play is based on the letter of Paul to Philemon. We believe that those who saw and heard it had two convictions; one was that while the play was deeply religious that fact would not spoil it with the general public not given overmuch to things of the Spirit. The second thought was that such a play as that might without any hesitation find place in the Sunday evening program of our churches.

The theater was once a church affair, and religious plays were commonly employed to teach religious truths. Why not take the drama out of the hands of the commercialists and rededicate it to the service of religion—just as many churches are now doing with motion pictures.

Mr. Tupper will issue very soon "Six little plays" —all of which were written with a great moral purpose; he generously offers the privilege of free use of these plays to any church desiring to employ them for the general good.

Christ is being born in every heart that responds to His spirit, in the great movements of human thought, in the slow triumphs of truth.

THE PACIFIC

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I AM A SKETCH.

I am a sketch, divinely started;—
Now here a dot, now there a line;—
To me it seems awkwardly charted,
But I trust He has a sure design.

O gracious hand, guide every stroke;—
My brush falls short, my hand is weak,
My latent powers their God invoke,
And I His inspiration seek.

I hope that some day I may be
One of God's finished works. O Soul,
E'en if it take eternity
What matters that? Pursue thy goal!

SATORU TSUNEISHI.

BITS OF WISDOM.

The editor of "Life" says that the churches are beginning to wake up. William Horace Day remarks that perhaps they were more awake than the editor knew. "Life's" comment is a hopeful token, however, that something worth while is happening. Roger W. Babson says that business is almost at a dead-lock. Perhaps an awakening church is the inevitable response to a dead-lock business; and perhaps an awakened church will break the dead-lock of business.

MATCHING THE BIG WITH THE LITTLE.

The Superintendent of the Conference has again discovered that the weak churches give much more for current expenses proportionately than do the strong; but much less for benevolences. All of which is perfectly natural and inevitable. He also discovered that the small churches have a much larger percentage of additions to membership.

Churches with more than 250 members pay on current expenses from $17 to $20 per member; the smaller churches pay about $30. The former give for the benevolences about 8 cents per member per week; the weaker churches give less than 5 ce But the smaller churches add about 17 per cen their membership while the larger add about per cent.

In our judgment the church whose member lies between 250 and 500 will be found to be most efficient in all regards; such churches are so small as to make the struggle for life too perate, nor so large as to have much idle or lected membership.

SIXTY-ONE DAYS MORE.

For ministers between the ages of forty-five sixty-five the "Original Plan" of the Annuity F is the best. They will get a better pension out that plan than by any other, at the same exper The pension will amount to $500 per annum minister and $300 per annum for his widow. Th pensions are for life, and according to the ju ment of life insurance experts are five times be than any insurance company can offer.

This Original Plan is to be withdrawn on Dec ber 31, 1921. Any minister wishing to get in that plan has just sixty-one days left in which to it. After that date, "there will be no place repentance, even with tears." Better do it n than next year bemoan the failure. This opp tunity will cease knocking at the door with end of December.

Arguments are not very conclusive where sta of feeling rather than objective realities are at bottom of differences.

PACIFIC SCHOOL OF RELIGION.

There is great rejoicing over the fact that Herman F. Swartz has accepted the election of Board of Trustees to the office of President of theological school at Berkeley. Negotiations ha been in progress for some time, with an increasin unanimous sentiment not only among the trust but with the ministers and leading workers in State that Dr. Swartz was the man for the pla that we needed just such as he to head this growi school of the prophets. His telegram accepting responsibility not only means joy to us all, seems to be significant of a great advance in usefulness and development of the school.

This fall the school had an entering class of the largest in its history. The sale of its prope for the University stadium and its compulsory moval to its better property near the east gate the college grounds synchronize fortunately w the securing of an able leadership in the presid tial chair.

A VETERAN GONE.

Rev. John Sharp died September 22, at his home Oakland, at the age of 88 years, nine months a nineteen days. He was born in Scotland, but ca

erica in early manhood, and held pastorates ssachusetts, New York and Michigan. Health ; him, he came to California, not with any exion of living more than a few weeks, but only with his daughter, Mrs. F. C. Barnard. He ered much of his strength, however, and be- an active worker in our church at Fruitvale. ast year or so he was not able to do as much merly, and gradually gave up one thing after er until attendance on morning service and his ; as deacon were all that he could compass. pain and weakness could keep him from his at church, and his friends always expected his al greeting as they entered the building.

month ago his wife passed into rest, so loneliand grief were added to his weakness and pain. these he was released quietly and easily. He as usual on the morning of his death and went t his customary affairs for a while. But growweary he lay himself upon his bed, and then n a short time closed his eyes and quietly ed away.

was a man of clear and firm convictions, a g preacher, wonderful in prayer and a devoted or. Even after coming to California he kept is activities, by which the Fruitvale Church was tly helped. The funeral was conducted by the or. The church people and friends testified to sorrow by their presence in large numbers.

PAUL'S LETTERS

hatever Dr. Burrell writes is bound to be inting; but he has here undertaken a task in h failure was inevitable. No man can profitdiscuss the whole of fourteen New Testament s in 167 pages. The author's attitude toward ern scholarship is also a handicap. He takes the les beginning at Romans and running down igh Hebrews as all Pauline: and worst of all hough they were in their original form. In a ace he warns his reader not to expect anything larly. This is a fatal weakness and his devout l speed the little book" will not save it.

AUL'S LETTERS: by David James Burrell. The rican Tract Society, New York

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A NEW SUPERINTENDENT.

perintendent Rathbone has given notice to the d of Trustees and through them to the Conferthat he would be unable to endure longer the s and strain of the work of Superintendent and asked that at the convenience of the Conference ight be relieved from that office. After careful ght upon the matter the Board of Trustees mmended and the Conference voted that Rev. I. Gill of the Stockton church be invited to be- Superintendent, succeeding Dr. Rathbone. Mr. Gill has the invitation under careful and prayerful consideration.

The Conference also voted that the present arrangement of Superintendent and Associate be continued until the new Superintendent enters upon his office.

LEADING EDUCATOR HOPEFUL.

President Barrows of the University of California, at a reception in honor of Secretary Swartz, said in substance that as he watched the development of young people in this generation he was impressed with the fact that there is a growing serious-mindedness among them. The young men are interested in the more vital matters of life.

It was his expectation that there would be much more earnest living and thinking among the young people for the next twenty years than had characterized the past twenty. There will not be so much material wealth lavished upon them, but in its stead there will be a more serious seeking for truth and the higher values; there is going to be a real quest for God.

He felt that if the dream of some of the friends of the Pacific School of Religion could be realized, and a chapel near the east gate could have daily services, brief, earnest and vital, many of the young men and women would be found in attendance; and it would prove of large value to the whole student life of the University.

ATTENDANCE AT ASILOMAR.

	Last Year	This Year
Churches represented	46	53
Ministers	54	64
Delegates	40	60
Visitors	81	102
Total attendance	175	226

A new motion picture entitled "Alice in Hungerland" has been put out by the Near-East Relief for use in churches and Sunday schools. Charles G. Vickery, the General Secretary, says that a minimum budget of fifteen million dollars is needed to carry on the work now in hand. The policy of the Relief agency is to encourage the people to help themselves in every possible way.

Reginald J. Campbell of Christ Church, Westminster, is of the opinion that Prohibition is here to stay. He visited this country and this city for some months the past summer, and had abundant chance to discover the feelings of our people. He says, "I have tested the opinion of the leaders of thought in the States and find almost unanimous belief that no community, from Maine to California, would ever consent to repeal prohibition."

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES.

Redlands.

Rev. Herbert C. Ide, pastor., An endowment of $5,000 for the music was subscribed early this year to guarantee the present unusual quality of the church ministry of music. Mr. Arthur Babcock of the music faculty of Pomona College directs the large senior and junior choirs in which membership is at a decided premium. Miss Anna Blanche Foster comes from twelve years' professional experience in New York to take the organ presided over for nineteen years by Mrs. Edith R. Smith, who was killed, with a sister, in a railroad auto accident last spring.

Dr. A. W. King, emeritus deacon, recently celebrated his 90th birthday. He attends church nearly every Sunday and brings an alert mind to every new interest of his beloved church.

The men have recently raised money to buy a beautiful site, away from the aggressive intrusion of business and traffic near the church, and are starting the erection of a commodious new parsonage. The old parsonage adjoining the church down town will probably be used for social and Sunday school purposes.

Dr. J. H. Williams, emeritus pastor, who has been supplying Claremont previous to the calling of its new pastor, has returned to Redlands and is devoting himself this winter especially to the leadership of a big men's class studying "The Jesus of History." Many men of the other churches or no church, appreciating his rare teaching power, come in for this Sunday morning class. Motion pictures are used for vespers, drawing largely a different constituency from the usual morning congregation. So the church feels it ministers in a double way to the community. The pastor carries a column of religious opinion and news in the local paper each Saturday.

San Jose, First.

Elisha A. King, pastor. At the first communion after vacation twelve new members were received into the church; among them were the new superintendent of the Schools and his wife, the Superintendent of the United States Weather Bureau and his wife, and their son and daughter. It was a very encouraging day. The pastor is giving a series of Wednesday evening lectures on the Bible which are attended by about 75 people regularly. Mr. and Mrs. King have already entertained about 70 of the young people in their home, and recently there was a big students and young peoples reception at the church.

Oakland, Boulevard.

Rev. J. B. Orr, pastor. During October the pastor has been preaching a series of sermons on Inspiration and the Bible: Depravity and Sin: The Atonement of our Lord: The Second Coming; The Future Punishment. He briefly reviewed the various theories held on these matters and then presented the basic truths of each.

Tehachipi.

La Rue Watson, pastor. Through the efforts of the pastor a motion picture machine has been installed in the church. It is the purpose to use the machine for the benefit of the community. Mr. Watson recently preached a sermon on the public schools of the town, which was highly commended by the local press. The pastor is also devoting part of his energy to the Boy Scouts.

Martinez.

Rev. N. F. Sanderson, pastor. Very much needed improvements in the church building are making. The church will be raised four feet, giving a basement eight feet high which will be used as assembly hall, auditorium and Sunday school class rooms. The expense will be about $2500.

Tipton.

General Missionary Speers has been supplying this pulpit for a few Sundays. He reports good attendance. The morning congregations running from 30 to 60, and the evening being slightly better. There is a splendid type of people here, there being many college men in the community. It is a fine field for a strong preacher.

Santa Barbara.

James Hoffman Batten, minister. During the months of November and December the pulpit is to present "Great questions of great men," concerning man, age, labor, wisdom, and death. For three Sunday evenings the pastor is to speak on themes leading up to Armistice Day; such as "Can an American citizen be a Christ-Christian without being neighborly toward such people as the Mexican and Japanese?" "What is the Christian interpretation of 'America First?'" "Can we believe in foreign missions and despise the backward people?" "Ought the church to urge some moral equivalent for war?" Is it Christian for America to spend 40 cents out of every dollar of taxes for war purposes?"

Crockett.

Rev. C. F. Roper, who has been supplying the church, was gratified one Sunday morning with the attendance of twenty English young men from one of the ships at the wharf. They sang with zest, and they were good singers. They expressed themselves as delighted with the church services.

Oakland, First.

Dr. Van Horn used the fact that he had performed one thousand marriage services during his ministerial life as an occasion to preach to a great audience on "What God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." He found that there were many unions thus made. aside from weddings, and he made a great impression upon his hearers. the one thousand weddings he performed, it is his belief that less than five went astray. This is a fine record both in number as well as in quality

in California where for every seven there is one divorce.

tac Cookman, pastor. The church began el series of monthly service of song on vening, October 2, with a crowded house lighted congregation. These evenings of ng have become a feature in the church e community. The pastor always has a suited to the occasion.

eorge E. Atkinson, pastor. During the he church has rejoiced in the visit of two rmer pastors, Dennis Goodsell and W. J. Both these visits proved helpful, and the astor rejoices to see the spirit of loyalty le show towards the former pastors. It is id thing to have such reunions, and it lot for the present and future success of ch. A most cordial invitation is extended nd all former pastors to visit us as often can do so. Through the missionary de- t of the Sunday school we have been having ry pageants every quarter. One was, by repeated at a union meeting at night when se was crowded. Rally Day was observed delightful program, preceeded Friday night et together" social by the Sunday school. 5 sat down for supper. The men decorated Annual Harvest Home service, among other tions" were four immense water melons. g from 55 to 80 pounds each! The Sheriff islaus county, who spoke that night, was he largest melon. The pastor's wife was he two next largest. Sheriff Dallas gave a rong address on the present crime wave at we as churches, parents and citizens can o-operate with the officers.

PARABLES OF INSIGHT

m E. Barton, the author of "Safed and Ke- struck a rich vein when he first began writ- ables for the Congregationalist and the Ad- It has many advantages; he can say any- e desires and not be wide of his text; he tack our dearest foibles without offense; nothing in the field of thought that is not e to the parable; and whether it be dull n itself, it is made attractive by the story-

his author in these parables usually has ng vitally worth while; and he has the rare knowing how to saw it briefly. Many a rmon has been spoiled by its length. These are better than sermons; and they are ough to stay as a whole in one's mind. a good book to leave on the living-room everybody in the home to take a nibble at. D AND KETURAH," by William E. Bar- e Pilgrim Press, Boston.

WAYSIDE NOTES.

The Honolulu Theological Seminary was brought into existence by the Hawaiian Board at its July meeting. The curriculum covers four years and combines with certain courses in the University of Hawaii. Students will be admitted on what constitutes high school graduation. The course is so planned that the student in the four years accumulates half of the credits necessary for the A. B. degree from the University.

Miss Marie Bashian, who sang so beautifully and effectively at the missionary reception in the First church of San Francisco, is an Armenian. She was a student at the American College for Girls at Constantinople until the war. She gave a fine recital at the First Church of Oakland at which she sang Armenian folk songs, appearing in costume and depicting a true picture of native life of her land.

The Congregational Ministers Wives Club held its annual meeting in the home of Mrs. H. H. Kelsey, Berkeley. There were 22 members present who had a delightful time. The club has the happy mission of introducing and making to feel at home all new comers within the Bay region. The new officers for the coming year are Mrs. Furze, president; Mrs. Bowdish, vice-President; Mrs. Nash, secretary and treasurer.

SECRETARY ROYCE.

The presence of Luman H. Royce in Northern California has meant much for the planning and outlining of our work about the Bay. Mr. Royce is the national secretary for city work. Two very helpful sessions of the State Conference were, under his direction, devoted to a consideration of our city work; and plans were made as a result of a careful survey of the region that will head up in greater returns to our denomination and in larger service to the community. Mr. Royce along with Superintendent Dodge discovered some four or five areas uncared for into which our Congregationalism should enter.

SOME OUTPOSTS OF THE KINGDOM.

At Etna Mills in Siskiyou County where Rev. Charles H. Dains is holding the fort there is a Federated church of the Congregationalists and Methodists. This federation has been working very harmoniously for four years. Recently the Sunday schools were also federated with an increase of attendance. Pastor Dains has organized a troop of Boy Scouts which he says is the best movement which has struck Scott Valley. There are three Indians in the troop.. Every Sunday afternoon a service is held at Tallahan, 14 miles away. For the past seven or eight years neither the Methodist nor the Congregational church had received a single member; but since the coming of Pastor Dains six new members have been received and six more are ready to join.

To live forty-five miles from the railroad would seem to some ministers credential enough for a hero-medal; but not so with Rev. and Mrs. John R. Shoemaker, to whom has been committed the work of Adin and vicinity. Adin is in Modoc County. We have there a "fine little church made up of very fine people." Mr. Shoemaker preaches every Sunday afternoon at Lookout, 12 miles away; and once a month he goes over the mountain to Grass Valley. Twenty-eight people live in the Valley; and the whole twenty-eight attend the church services. That is a 100 per cent community. Can it be matched anywhere else in the State for church attendance? It surely cannot be excelled.

Last January Mr. Shoemaker held a pastor's training class and as a result received ten new members into the church at Easter time. One member was a woman raised as a Catholic, who is now an earnest and happy worker in the church. There are five members of the High school faculty and each one is a Christian. A garage is being built for the pastor's automobile.

* * *

Trinity County is nearly three times as large as Rhode Island; it has only one Protestant minister in it, and he Rev. William W. Riley of Weaverville. Mr. Riley is an optimist and an indefatigable worker. He says that his people in the Weaverville church "can sing like the birds,—old people and young people." Pastor Riley was not willing to have only one church in that large county, so he has organized a branch church at Douglas City, which while it is a branch means as much as though it were a second church. Then he went over into Hayfork and organized a church there.

Hayfork is an ambitious community. It has christened its church with the name "Plymouth"; and has already started to build a meeting house. This region has been settled for fifty years, yet this is the first meeting house to be constructed. It is a struggle for these people to supply their church needs; they want pews, they want a bell, they want a lighting plant of some sort, they want a pulpit. Is there any church any where that would like to supply some of these pressing needs of this far-away people? Since going to that county, Pastor Riley has had the remarkable success of securing 110 new members for the churches there, many of whom though brought up as Catholics have come out into the clearer light of the Gospel of Jesus.

THE MINISTER.

Rev. Huber Burr, who has been one of our California workers in days past, has been called to head an Indian school in Kansas. He is assisted by Mrs. Burr who is matron of the school.

Rev. Edward K. Howe, a Presbyterian minister, who has been pastor of our Congregational Church at Reno, Nevada, has resigned after three years of service. The Presbyterian and Congre churches have been worshipping together this pastorate.

Rev. W. H. L. Marshall of Gurneville h called to the church at Eugene, Oregon church agrees to move its plant from the the town where it has been more or less handicap up to a more central location, ne the University. This is a change that Mac lace undertook as far back as 1900, but he able to convince all the people of the value move. Had his wisdom been followed the would in all probability today be many fold er that it is.

Rev. Bryant C. Preston of the Garvanza in Los Angeles has received a flattering call Union Evangelical Church of Rio de Janeir zil. This is the English speaking church great city, and offers a large opportunity kind of service Mr. Preston is especially q to give.

Rev. Charles S. Price of Lodi, who became interested in Mrs. McPherson's healing meet San Jose, has with his wife gone east with th gelist where she is to carry on a series of m in Ohio.

The alert pastor of San Jose, Elisha A. Kin been speaking to his people during October o shall we think of God? of Jesus? of the Gosp Heaven and Hell? and How shall we apply th pel to life?

Rev. John Brereton has resigned the pasto the Bethlehem Church of San Francisco. H rendered a fine service in this most dificult f

Rev. Frank Dyer has resigned from the T church to take up work in Los Angeles.

Rev. Griffith Griffiths has resigned from the church, Oakland, after many years of service.

During the past year the Christian Endeavor California have increased from 27,000 to 31,0 net gain of 4,000. It is a happy prophecy fo young people that 1,100 of that 4,000 has been in our Congregational societies.

When tempted to run for a street car, rem the slogan, "Save a minute and lose a leg."

CHARTLESS

I never saw a moor,
I never saw a sea;
Yet know I how the heather looks,
And what a wave must be.

I never spoke with God,
Nor visited in heaven;
Yet certain am I of the spot
As if the chart were given.

—Emily Dick

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

(Presented at Asilomar.)

port covers thirteen months, from Sep- 1920, to October 1, 1921.

Office Work.

ial routine work has been performed in and on the road for the thirteen months. intendent has traveled 26,653 miles, and hed 81 times, attended 46 committee attended and participated in 30 asso- councils or conferences, in all of which ade addresses. The associate superinten- s traveled 19,673 miles, has preached 61 tended 122 committee meetings, and at- ad participated in 5 associations, confer- d councils, in all of which he has made s. Both have made a large number of in- calls in the interest of various churches. ters have been sent out from the office.

Property Interests.

ve supplement the reports of the treasurer trustees by saying that the funds of the issionary Society have increased slightly in known as the "accumulation fund," which ntually be added to the available endow- the Society. This has occurred because of vestments. Statements in regard to the rs' Relief Society will be made under that

sale of the Bethany Church property of San co netted $6,000, which has been placed at and forms a beginning for an endowment Conference. The property of the church at nd has also been sold and the proceeds, ting to $3,000, have been added to the same In addition to this a legacy of $500 has ft to the superintendent to use for the Con- as he sees fit. With the approval of the s he is to add this to the same fund as soon hall have been paid, as it will be on the com- of the probate proceedings.

Deaths.

deaths have occurred in the ranks of our ry during the year: Americus Fuller, Charles rrill, Wallace W. Lovejoy, William D. Mc- l, Edwin J. Singer and Emanuel Hoskins.

Changes.

re have been twenty-three resignations from es during the year and one vacancy caused ath. During this same period twenty-nine have been filled. There are today but six fields in the Conference. One church, Pesca- hat was inactive a year ago has begun work Three churches have been dropped from lls: Beckwith, Green Valley and Richmond. ly two more churches should be dropped. churches have been recognized by council: Church, Earlimart, Hayfork and Reedley, h, and a new community enterprise has been undertaken at Fairfax. The Biola German church organized and reported a year ago since has dis- banded and the building has been sold. The new church reported this year is organized in the same community with a larger membership.

Buildings.

The church at Loomis has dedicated a new, commodious, substantial and attractive building. Fresno, Pilgrim, has sold its old property and has just moved into a new plant costing them $100,- 000. Martinez has just begun substantial improve- ments in its property. The Boulevard Church of Oakland has completed a parish house which is to be used for community purposes of all sorts and particularly for moving pictures and the presenta- tion of pageants and plays by the Players' Club of that church, which club you will have the pleas- ure of hearing on Saturday night of this week in the delightful one act play of "Onesimius." A parsonage has also been erected for the Spanish church of Redwood City.

Condition of the Churches.

As in several years past, a table has been pre- pared showing the activities of the churches in groups, giving percentage of additions to member- ship during the year, size of Sunday school as com- pared with the church, per capita benevolences per week, and per capita current expense for the year. This table is as follows:

	Chs.	Mem.	Aver.	Adds.	S.S.	Benev.	Cur. Ex.
Group 1..	5	Over 500	998	.111	.507	.083	$20.33
Group 2..	13	250-499	306	.14	.788	.06	17.74
Group 3..	14	150-249	192	.09	1.06	.079	16.90
Group 4..	43	50-149	89	.177	1.467	.048	29.76
Group 5..	31	Below 50	25	.159	2.40	.048	28.99
Group 6..	27	Inactive, 580 Mem.			Property, $22,700.		

The comparison of this report with the report of last year is very encouraging. Each group has in- creased the percentage of additions to the member- ship. All but one group have increased the per- centage of Sunday school enrollment. All have in- creased the benevolences, which in the Conference have increased from .037 to .052 per week per per- son. You will find on the bulletin board a list of all churches which have given .05 per member per week or over, with amount for each church. Is your church on this list? If not, why? It is a noticeable thing that this list has grown steadily since 1916, when it was first published with thir- teen names. In 1917 there were sixteen, in 1919 twenty-eight, and this year forty-seven. A good and steady increase.

The real honor list of the Conference is that of the churches which have added over 10 per cent to their membership during the year. The list of these churches is also posted and numbers forty- two.

Comparisons.

The superintendents have believed that it might be desirable to vary the form of this report by mak-

ing a survey of denominational activity in this Conference and for that purpose they have thought it was well worth while to present in the form of graphs certain facts which they have taken much care in gathering. (Here the superintendent exhibited a series of colored charts.)

Will you kindly note the following facts for the Conference district:

All denominations have made a good growth since the beginning of the present century.

Sunday school enrollment has not kept pace with church membership in any denomination over the whole period.

The most interesting thing is that while we each suppose that the growth or decline of our own denomination depends upon our own individual or united efforts, the facts show that advance or retreat in one denomination is accompanied by advance or retreat in all denominations, if they keep their figures the same way.

Another item worthy of our consideration is that advance or decline in Sunday school enrollment is followed soon after by advance or decline in church membership.

In the graph showing the same related facts for the bay cities the same conclusions may be drawn from the facts presented as in the preceding one. Will you kindly remember that if the graphs were based upon the figures for San Francisco alone they would be much more discouraging and the lines would be practically down over a long range of years.

Three facts are brought out by these graphs if one has the facts that lie back of them that should be considered of great importance in determining the lines of work of our church bodies:

1st. The work done frequently does not bear fruit for years; or, conversely, the failure to grasp opportunities ofttimes does not show for long years. For example, during the decade 1890-1900 the California Home Missionary Society and its superintendent pleaded in no uncertain terms to be allowed to continue church work that had been started in many of the San Joaquin Valley towns, but were sternly told that there was no money for this work. The result was that in many a town that has since become a fine interior town, where the Congregational church was the only church in the town, as, for instance, Turlock, that church was closed and the chance passed, not to be regained. In other cases the plea was made to open new work in places where Sunday schools already were or could be started. Witness Strathmore, Lindsay, Exeter and Poplar. The plea was denied and that which made the large growth in sister denominations in the next two decades was closed to us.

In this connection will you allow your superintendents to call your attention to a bit of ancient history which is profoundly affecting the work of the Conference today. The expenditures Congregational Home Missionary Society w duced from $17,000 in 1890 to $7,000 in This compelled the old State Association to the meeting in Cloverdale to become self-s ing as a missionary organization in 1901. that time the scope of the work has gradu creased, but the blight has not been overco perhaps may never be.

2nd. It may simply be a re-statement same fact when we say that the great oppo for growth in the Conference that we have ed in is in the country work, on which we h laid sufficient stress. One-third of our den tional strength is in the bay cities, while Baptist denomination the proportion is one and in the Methodist one-fifth.

3rd. We have done a disproportionate of missionary work in the denominatio ar not sufficiently concerned ourselves with the lishment of self-supporting centers. We call your attention to the suggestion of the and their revelation of the work of the Pr rians. This denomination has wisely dev large part of its efforts over a long term o to the development of churches in centers places in cities which would become self-s ing. So, while they have a city membership larger that the Congregationalists, they large number of self-supporting enterprises.

Home Mission Churches.

We are always desirous of learning of the of the Home Misionary churches. During t the Home Missionary Society has assisted taining some regular church service in fifty-c ferent communities, with thirty-seven pasto additions to these churches show 20.6 per against 11.7 per cent for the entire Conferenc of these churches use the Spanish language German and one each Italian and Armenian comparative enrollment of the Sunday sch 143 per cent, as against 86.2 per cent for tire Conference. Again it has proven true t net gain in the Home Missionary churches ha more that the net gain in the Conference. I words, had it not been for the Home Miss work of the Conference we should have faced loss in 1920. Hail to these fellow pastors for their good work.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

SEVEN CENTURIES ILLUSTRATED, in th gregational Library. Paper; pages 31; 25 American Congregational Association, Boston,

METHODS WITH BEGINNERS, by Frances Danielson. Textbook in teacher training. Pag Price 60 cents. The Pilgrim Press, Boston, Mas

TEACHERS MANUAL for "FOLLOWERS OF MARKED TRAIL," by Nannie Lee Frayser. 72. Price 90 cents net. The Abingdon Press York.